

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please consider the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for maintaining records of information related to an interactive program guide (IPG) provided via a plurality of IPG pages, the method comprising:

generating a program mapping table (PMT) to identify video, audio, and data packet identifiers (PIPs) associated with each IPG page;

generating a program association table (PAT) to identify PIDs for the PMT for the transmitted IPG pages;

forming a plurality of record elements associated with a roster, wherein each record element is being associated with a respective IPG page received at a terminal, and wherein each record includes and further includes a first field indicative of a specific one of the plurality of IPG pages corresponding to the associated IPG page.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

updating the plurality of record elements to reflect changes in IPG pages received at the terminal.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the updating includes inserting an additional record element for each new IPG page received at the terminal.

4. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the updating includes removing an existing record element for an associated IPG page previously, but no longer, received at the terminal.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein each IPG page includes a plurality of defined regions, and wherein the first field of each record element identifies a first packet identifier (PID) for a program listing for a guide region of the associated IPG page.

6. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein each record element further includes
 - a second field identifying a second PID for a video stream for a video region of the associated IPG page.
7. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein each record element further includes
 - a third field identifying a third PID for a data stream for the associated IPG page.
8. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein each record element further includes
 - a fourth field identifying a fourth PID for data used to indicate presentation of contents of the associated IPG page based on defined user interactions.
9. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein each record element further includes
 - a fifth field identifying a fifth PID for an audio stream for the associated IPG page.
10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of record elements are generated at a server of an information distribution system and sent to the terminal.
- 11 (original) The method of claim 10, wherein one record element is generated by the server for each IPG page transmitted therefrom as either a broadcast or a demand-cast in response to a request for the IPG page.
12. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein the plurality of record elements are sent from the server via a data stream.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the data stream used to send the record elements is assigned a particular PID that is identified in [a] the program map table (PMT) for a transport stream that includes the data stream.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for providing information for an interactive program guide (IPG), wherein the IPG is provided via a plurality of IPG pages, the method comprising:

receiving at a server a request for a particular IPG page;
assigning a packet identifier (PID) for the requested IPG page;
generating a program mapping table (PMT) to identify video, audio, and data packet identifiers (PIIDs) associated with each IPG page;
generating a program association table (PAT) to identify PIIDs for the PMT for the transmitted IPG pages;
transmitting the requested IPG page to a requesting terminal via the assigned PID;
generating a record element indicative of the transmitted IPG page; and
transmitting the record element to the requesting terminal to form a roster to reference IPG streams.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein each IPG page includes a plurality of defined regions, and wherein the request is for a particular region of the particular IPG page.

16. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the requested region comprises a program listing for a guide region of the IPG page.

17. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the requested region comprises a video for a video region of the IPG page.

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18. (Currently Amended) In an information distribution system, a terminal operable to process information for an interactive program guide (IPG) provided via a plurality of IPG pages, the terminal comprising:

a memory unit configured to store a program mapping table (PMT) to identify packet identifiers (PIPs) associated with each IPG page, a program association table (PAT) to identify PIDs for the PMT for the transmitted IPG pages, and a plurality of record elements of a roster, wherein each record element is associated with, and identifies, a respective IPG page received at a terminal;

a controller configured to receive a selection for a particular IPG page, determine whether the selected IPG page is currently received at the terminal, and if the selected IPG page is currently received at the terminal, identify one or more packet identifiers (PIPs) used for the selected IPG page; and

a video decoder operatively coupled to the controller and configured to process the one or more identified PIDs to form the selected IPG page.

19. (original) The terminal of claim 18, wherein the controller is further configured to generate a request for the selected IPG page if the selected IPG page is not currently received at the terminal.

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21. (original) The terminal of claim 18, wherein each IPG page includes a plurality of defined regions, and wherein each record element identifies the one or more PIDs used to send one or more respective regions of the selected IPG page.

22 (Currently Amended) A system operable to provide information for an interactive program guide (IPG), wherein the IPG is provided via a plurality of IPG pages, the system comprising:

a session manager configured to receive a request for a particular IPG page; and a transport stream generator coupled to the session manager and configured to assign a packet identifier (PID) for the requested IPG page,

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transmit the requested IPG page to a requesting terminal via the assigned PID,
generating a program mapping table (PMT) to identify video, audio, and data
packet identifiers (PIDs) associated with each IPG page;
generating a program association table (PAT) to identify PIDs for the PMT for the
transmitted IPG pages;
generate a record element indicative of the transmitted IPG page, and
transmit the record element to the requesting terminal.